Set	Items	Description
S1	37	PROXY (S) BEAN
S2	0	PROXY BEAN
S3	0	CLIENT BEAN
S4	10	CLIENT (N) BEAN

?

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DISCLOSURE TEXT:

JavaBeans is quickly accepted as a promising component model. IBM* Visual Age for Java provides various tools supporting beans development. One portion of the tools is the support for developing enterprise Java bean applications. The tool allows the user to visually develop distributed beans applications without writing communication code.

The Visual Age approach is to generate the proxy beans from users designated server beans and then link the generated proxy beans with the client beans in a visual environment. However, this approach has two notable drawbacks.

First, the users have to deal with the system generated classes which they may not be comfortable with. In addition,

there are a large number of the generated classes. For example, there are eight generated classes and two generated interfaces in the simple example provided with Visual Age for Java. Second, the users have to link the client proxy bean first and then test the correctness of their program. If there are something wrong, the users have to repeat the whole development process.

The following process is proposed to allow a Java bean application built in a visual environment and run remotely without the above two problems.

The improved process can be summarized as follows. Users link their client bean with the server bean first in their visual environment such as Visual Age.

A tool can then generate the client and the server proxy beans and allow the client bean to interact with the client proxy bean, and let client proxy bean talk with the server proxy bean using such as Remote Method Invocation (RMI). The user beans will not need to be changed. Next described is one approach of constructing this proxy generation tool.

The tool for generating the proxy beans can be built by using Javabeans' introspection and Java's reflection facilities.

For example, in CR-xxx, we described a process to dynamically split a Java program

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    and run it as a client/server application, which
includes a process
    of
    generating proxy classes using reflection.  For
JavaBeans, the
    introspection is needed if users do not use the design
pattern in the
    event handling code.  Moreover, the following two
problems must be
    solved in generating proxy bean classes: the name
conflicts and event
    handling.  The following examples are used to describe
the problems
    and
    this solution.
          Assume that there are two beans X and Y.
      The class Y and its
    objects will be placed in a remote machine and the
class X and its
    objects are in the local machine.  X is a listener to a
property
    propY in Y.  When X is notified the changes of propY,
it will call a
    method B defined in Y.
      public Class X implements
java.beans.PropertyChangeListener [
        private Y y = new Y();
        // register as a listener
        public X() [
          y.addPropertyChangeListener(this);


           ]
        // handle events
        public void
propertyChange(java.beans.PropertyChangeEvent evt)[
          if ((evt.getSource() == y) &&
            (evt.getPropertyName().equals("propY"))) [
            y.B();
           ]
        ] ]
      public Class Y [
        private String propY = "propY";  // property to
check
        private java.beans.PropertyChangeSupport pcs;


           public Y() [
```

```
        pcs = new java.beans.PropertyChangeSupport(this);
      ]
      // Pattern methods for registring a listener
      public void addPropertyChangeListener
       (java.beans.PropertyChangeListener pcl) [
        pcs.addPropertyChangeListener (pcl);
      ]
      // Getter and setter methods
      public String getPropertyY() [
        return propY;


       ]
      public void setPropertyY(String newValue) [
        pcs.firePropertyChange("propY", oldValue,
newValue);
      ]
      // Code to change the property
      public void changeProperty() [
        setPropertyY(newValue);
      ] ]
        Name conflicts.  Since the client bean X will
talk with the
    client proxy bean Y' and we will not change the client
bean, Y' needs
    to have the same class name as Y.  This name conflict
can be solve by
    storing Y' in a different directory.
      In the runtime, the same named
    client proxy bean is running in the client machine.
Therefore, the
    name conflict problem is solved.  In Visual Age for
Java, the client
    proxy bean has a different name as the server bean,
which introduces
    another complication for users (the approach described
here is very
    similar with the process used in CR-xxx.)
        Event handling.  In the case of X and Y in the
same JVM, when
    propY changed in the object Y, an event will be sent to
the
    corresponding
    object X which was registered as a listener of the
property
    propY.  However, now the object Y is running in the
remote machine,
    the
```

event can not be sent to the object X in the normal way.
This problem is solved by the following approach. The client proxy Y' is designated as the source of the event which the client object is listen to. The server proxy Y'' is designated as the target object of the event from the server object. In other words, it listens the event sent by the server object. When the event is sent to the server proxy object, it sends a remote method call to the client proxy with the event object as a parameter.
The client proxy will use the value in the event object to fire the event and trigger the client bean. The client bean can then take the appropriate actions. For example, it may even invoke the method B in Y. This method invocation will be relayed by the client proxy Y' to call the remote method in the server proxy bean Y''.
One more detail was left on how the server proxy object to find out the client proxy object which will receive the remote method call when the event is received by the server proxy object. One solution would be to register the client proxy object with the server proxy object.
When the server proxy object receives the event, it will call back to the corresponding client proxy object. In summary, the key idea is the use of the proxy beans as new event source and

target,
and pass event objects using the remote method calls coded in the
proxy
beans.

As mentioned, this approach has two advantages. First,
since the user's applications can be first assembled as a single
application that is achieved: test beans locally, and run beans
remotely. Therefore, it reduces the overhead of the application
development. Second, the process of developing distributed beans
applications becomes more transparent to the end user. Now, users
need not to deal with large amount of beans generated from the
systems.

This approach can be rapidly incorporated into Visual Age for
Java. It can also be used as a value-added component for other
visual
program development tools such as IBM's BeanMachine and WebRunner,
Symentec Visual Cafe and Sun Java Workshop.

Symentec Visual Cafe contains a visual development environment
to allow users to develop GUI component visually. It can be used to
generate and assemble beans. Similarly, Sun Java Workshop is a
visual
Java development environment which can generate beans. Borland
JBuilder
includes full support for visually constructing beans, applets, and
applications using standard and third-party beans. Lotus BeanMachine
for
Java is an interactive visual authoring tool which allows
non-programmers
and Web professionals to combine Java and JavaBeans components into

intranet and Internet applications. It contains the full JDBC support for open data access from text files, spreadsheets, and relational databases. IBM WebRunner contains bean tools to assist in building beans visually.

Even though some of these products produce limited support for developing distributed applications, for example, Sun Java WorkShop allows the use of RMIC from the IDE, Borland JBuilder will support developing distributed applications, none of them support automatic visual development of distributed applications.